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CENTRAL FAX CENTERREMARKS*Claim Rejections*

MAR 10 2008

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-29 are pending in the application and claims 18-29 are withdrawn from consideration. The indicated allowability of claim 4 noted in the Final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007 was withdrawn by the Examiner in view of newly discovered references to **Frangos** (5036951) and **Orndoff et al** (4699251) and the finality of that Office Action mailed August 24, 2007 was withdrawn. The Examiner noted that claims 4 and 6 are rejected and claims 9, 11, 14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended. Claim 6 has not been amended because it depends on claim 4 as currently amended. Claim 9 remains as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007 because it depends on claim 4 as currently amended. Claims 11 and 14 remain as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007, because both claims depend on claim 9. Claim 16 remains as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007 because it depends on claim 14.

Claims 18 through 29 remain withdrawn.

35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 6 as being unpatentable over **Orndoff et al** (4699251), in view of **Frangos** (5036951).

In regard to claim 4, the Examiner states that **Orndoff**, which relates generally to elevator cabs, discloses a concealed storage system, comprising some but not all of the

elements enumerated in claim 4, namely an encased chamber, a support frame, a liftable frame with top deck and a bottom deck, wherein the top deck further comprises an emergency exit hatch, and a mechanism for vertically raising and lowering the liftable frame. Applicant would respectfully disagree with Examiner's conclusion that **Orndoff** discloses a "concealed storage system" and would further assert that elevators as commonly known are neither concealed nor used for storage.

The Examiner notes that **Frangos** discloses an elevator lifting mechanism wherein the mechanism further comprises a motor (Col. 5, lines 49-60) driving roller chain and sprocket assembly (Col. 5, lines 49-60), at least one lifting screw shaft driven by the roller chain and sprocket assembly and one rolling ball screw. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusion because Col. 5, lines 49-60 of **Frangos** do not disclose a roller chain and sprocket assembly. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's conclusion that it would have been obvious to modify the vertical lifting means of **Orndoff** for the lifting means of **Frangos** in so far as it relates to the present invention, because the lifting means of **Frangos** does not disclose the lifting means claimed in claim 4 as amended.

To further overcome Examiner's rejection of claim 4, Applicant has amended claim 4 by inclusion of top side beams 24, as fully disclosed in Figure 2 and paragraph [0038], as an element of the support frame and indicating that the lifting screw shafts are suspended by a collar from the top side beams, as fully disclosed in paragraph [0039] which states, "The inventors have discovered that the lifting screw shafts 17 work more effectively and in a smoother fashion if the lifting screw shafts 17 are supported or suspended from the top side beam 24." This is further disclosed in Figure 13 and

paragraph [0058] which states, "In the embodiment as shown, the lifting screw shaft 17 is suspended from a top side beam 24 of the support frame 16, a two piece collar 89 supports the lifting screw shaft 17 . . ." As noted, the amendments to claim 4 are fully supported in the specification and drawings.

In regard to claim 6, which claims a lifting mechanism further comprising a primary drive shaft being rotated by the motor through a belt and pulley assembly, the Examiner concludes that, while **Frangos** does not expressly disclose a belt and pulley system, such systems are notoriously common and well known and it would have been obvious to use such a system. Applicant agrees that **Frangos** does not teach a belt and pulley system and, as stated above, does not disclose a roller chain and sprocket assembly. However, in light of Applicant's amendment to claim 4, upon which claim 6 depends, claim 6 has not been amended and should be allowed with claim 4.

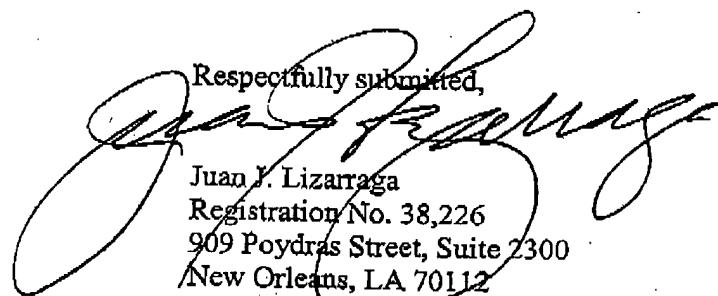
Claims 9, 11, 14 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, claim 9 remains as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007 because it depends on claim 4 as currently amended. Claims 11 and 14 remain as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007, because both claims depend on claim 9. Claim 16 remains as previously presented in applicant's amendment of 23 May 2007 because it depends on claim 14.

Applicants respectfully request that claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 14 and 16 be allowed.

Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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